

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 00975 041003Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0686
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 0975

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOB, PBOR, PEPR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO FEELS ISRAELIS RENEGGING ON WITHDRAWAL

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 960 (NOTAL), (B) TEL AVIV 4449

1. MAP WHICH GUR PROMISED SIILASVUO APRIL 2 SHOWING IDF PLANNED PULLBACK (REFTELS) WAS FINALLY DELIVERED BY IDF LO LEVINSON AT 2300 LOCAL APRIL 3. INSTEAD OF 10 KMS WITHDRAWAL FROM LITANI PROMISED BY GUR, REDEPLOYMENT WAS ON AVERAGE ONLY ONE TO TWO KMS AND IN PLACES LESS THAN ONE KM. ONLY IN DIRECTION OF IBIL ES SAQY DID LINE EXTEND FOR SEVEN KMS. MARJAYOUN, EL KHIAM AND EL MERI ARE ALL EXCLUDED.

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2. SIILASVUO TOLD LEVINSON HEATEDLY THAT MAP DID NOT CORRESPOND TO GUR'S VERBAL COMMITMENT. IT WAS NOT REALLY A WITHDRAWAL AT ALL SINCE IDF WOULD STILL BE IN AREAS OCCUPIED BY NORWEGIAN UNIFIL UNITS.

3. SIILASVUO SUSPECTS THAT THERE WAS A CHANGE IN POSITION BETWEEN HIS CONVERSATION WITH GUR AND PRESENTATION OF

THE MAP. HE THINKS THAT WHEN HADDAD SAW ISRAELI PLANS,
HE OBJECTED TO SO DEEP A PULLBACK.

4. SIILASVUO SAYS IT IS FORTUNATE HE DID NOT GO TO
DAMASCUS AS URGED BY ISRAELIS ON BASIS OF APRIL 2 CONVERSATION ALONE
BECAUSE THE MAP GAVE HIM NOTHING TO WORK WITH.

5. SIILASVUO WAS GENUINELY ANGRY WHEN HE INFORMED ME
OF ABOVE AT MIDNIGHT. HE USED EXPRESSION, "THE ISRAELIS
ARE PLAYING GAMES WITH ME." ANOTHER UN SOURCE TELLS US
THE STAFF WAS NOT SURPRISED. SINCE MAPS WERE NOT
REFERRED TO DURING THE APRIL 2 DISCUSSION, SIILASVUO AND
PRIETO PROBABLY GOT MISTAKEN IMPRESSION ISRAELIS PREPARED
PULL BACK 10 KMS FROM THE LITANI THEREBY WITHDRAWING
FROM CHRISTIAN SANCTUARIES OF MARJAYOUN AND EL KLAIA.
ANSWER PROBABLY LIES IN PRESSING IDF TO CARRY THROUGH
BASICALLY ON APRIL 2 COMMITMENT WHILE LEAVING MARJAYOUN
AND EL KLAIA FOR THE TIME BEING AS ENCLAVES OCCUPIED JOINTLY
BY CHRISTIANS AND IDF WITH SOME UNIFIL PRESENCE.

6. WHEN SIILASVUO ASKED LEVINSON WHERE MAP OF AKIYA
BRIDGE REGION WAS, LEVINSON SAID HE DID KNOW BUT BECAUSE
THIS PULLBACK WAS TO TAKE PLACE THREE DAYS LATER, PERHAPS
MAP WOULD BE FORTHCOMING SOON. SIILASVUO LEFT JERUSALEM
EARLY APRIL 4 TO SPEND DAY IN BEIRUT WITH BOUTROS AND
KHOURY.

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